



International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section
4171 N. Mesa, Suite C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

For immediate release
May 9, 2005

**NOGALES WASH, INTERNATIONAL
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
ON AGENDA FOR MAY 23 PUBLIC MEETING**

Efforts to improve sanitation in the Nogales area will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum (SACF) of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place Monday, May 23, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, 857 W. Bell Road, Suite 3 in Nogales, Arizona.

John M. Light, Acting Project Manager of the USIBWC Nogales Field Office, will give an overview of the disinfection effort of the Nogales Wash. The Wash, which flows from Mexico to the north through central Nogales, Arizona, is occasionally contaminated with sewage. Recent changes have improved response to these incidents. These efforts include development of a standardized response matrix and standard operating procedure to ensure that the appropriate level of response is applied as well as improved coordination with stakeholders. Light will also explain the potential positive and negative impacts of activating the Nogales Wash Pumping Plant to divert flows from the Wash for treatment at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Glenn Hansel, USIBWC Environmental Engineer, will give an update on the planned upgrade of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP). An alternatives analysis has been initiated to guide the development of concepts for the upgrade. The analysis will evaluate the feasibility and estimated costs for six treatment technology alternatives capable of bringing the NIWTP into compliance with all

applicable effluent discharge limits. The goal is to upgrade the plant in the most cost-effective way possible. Results of the study should be available by summer.

In a related project, Hansel will discuss the final report evaluating the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), the nine-mile long pipe that conveys wastewater to the NIWTP. The report gives recommendations for rehabilitating the IOI. Based on the report, initial works will include rehabilitating certain manholes located along the IOI. This work will help eliminate inflow and infiltration of water to the wastewater treatment system. The report indicates that it could be possible to rehabilitate the IOI at lower cost than replacing the entire pipe.

The purpose of the forum is to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties, Arizona. The SACF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the public, environmentalists, government agencies, municipalities, and other interested parties. The SACF Board has 12 members representing a variety of interests in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties.

A complete agenda is attached. Members of the public who would like more information can call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

For more information:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS' FORUM

Monday, May 23, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Arizona Department of Water Resources

857 W. Bell Road, Suite 3

Nogales, AZ

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Update on Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and International Outfall Interceptor - Glenn Hansel, Environmental Engineer, USIBWC
- Nogales Wash Sanitation - John M. Light, USIBWC Acting Project Manager, Nogales Field Office
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov